

The Bulletins are published weekly throughout the school year (thirty issues) to aid teachers and students in keeping abreast of geography behind current news events.

GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS

of
The National Geographic Society
WASHINGTON 6, D. C.

The National Geographic Society is a non-profit educational and scientific Society established for the increase of geographic knowledge and its popular diffusion.

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	PAGE
Treaty for Austria Being Drafted. <i>Altman</i>	3
British Transfer Troops from Nile to Suez. <i>Murphy - Ottaway</i>	5
National Park Series: No. 17. Rocky Mountain. <i>Gray</i>	7
Tung Oil Flows from Gulf-State Groves. <i>Hopper</i>	9
Japan's Zaibatsu Firms Face Dissolution. <i>Wilberly - Gray</i>	11



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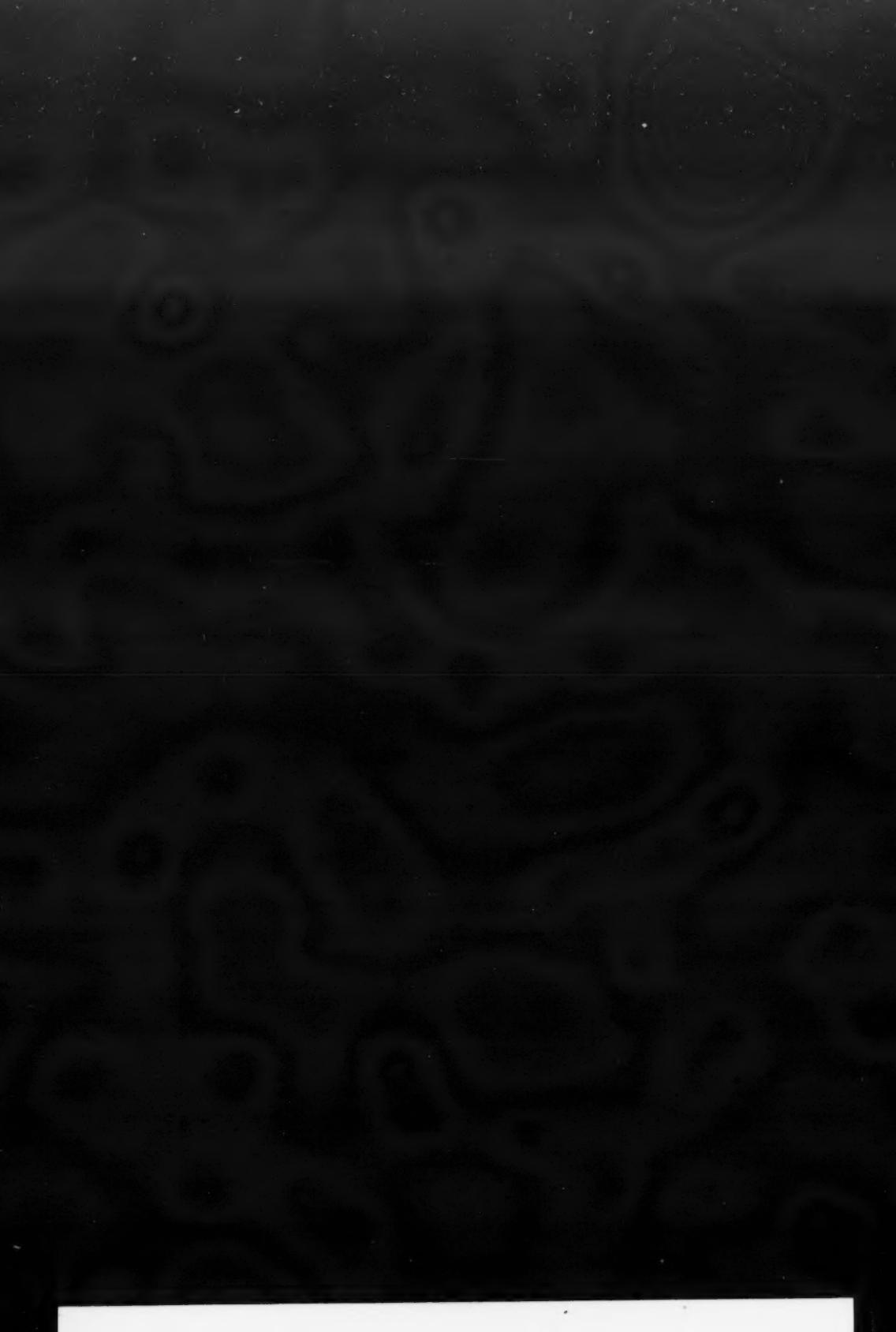
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Treaty for Austria Being Drafted

THE Austrian peace treaty being drafted for Big Four approval will determine the future status and boundaries of a nation which within a few decades has seen outstanding physical, political, and economic changes. The central European country tumbled from a world power to a Nazi outpost, and in both roles experienced defeat in war.

Before World War I, the dual monarchy of Austria-Hungary stretched from north-central Europe to the Adriatic shore, and from the Swiss Alps on the west to the far-eastern Carpathians at the border of Romania.

Former Treaty Left Austria a Severed Head

More than 50,000,000 people, including Germans, Slavs, and Magyars, were joined under the Austrian House of Hapsburg, a ruling dynasty since the 13th century. Natural resources included vast expanses of fertile farmland, extensive forests, and deposits of various minerals. A large-scale industry flourished.

The treaty of St. Germain, which, in 1919, followed the defeat of the Central Powers, left Austria a "head without a body." Parts of the old empire went to form the new states of Czechoslovakia, Poland, and Yugoslavia. Italy gained the Alpine region of the South Tyrol, bringing its boundaries north to the strategic Brenner Pass. Drastically reduced Hungary became a separate state.

Around the ancient Austrian capital of Vienna, with its industrial concentration and 2,000,000 population, there remained a rugged, land-locked country only a little larger than Maine. Its inhabitants, aside from the capital, numbered about 5,000,000.

Less than nine per cent of the new Austria was made up of lowland and plain. In spite of widespread farming activities (even in level places on mountain sides), the limited and often poor soil forced the country to import much of its food supply.

Alpine Resorts Popular and Profitable

Austria's chief resources were in the mountains, which covered nearly three-fourths of the total area and rose in places to perpetually snow-crowned peaks above 12,000 feet. Hydroelectric power, timber, and such minerals as iron, magnesite, coal, copper, and zinc were items on the credit side of Austria's economic ledger.

So were Alpine scenery and resorts, which attracted considerable tourist trade between the two world wars. Vacationists recall highland scenes of sharp-roofed cottages, mountain climbers in leather shorts and feathered hats, village festivals, folk dancing, and women in elaborate costumes (illustration, cover).

The reverse side of the Austria of farm life and Alpine sports was found in old Vienna on the Danube. This mellow city once had been one of Europe's gayest and most beautiful capitals. It was noted for its music, theater, and art, its brilliant social life, its coffee shops and rich pastries.

After German forces marched into Vienna in 1938, Austria was swal-

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK VISITORS MOTOR ABOVE THE CLOUDS IN THE NEVER-SUMMER REGIONS REACHED BY TRAIL RIDGE DRIVE

By May 30, plows usually have cleared the snow from this above-timber-line stretch of the highway. In July and August roadside drifts still glisten in the warm sun. Autumn snows close the drive about October 20. In between, 600,000 motorists glide over the Colorado engineering marvel (page 7).



O. ROACH

British Transfer Troops from Nile to Suez

WHEN the green and white flag of Egypt recently replaced the British ensign over Alexandria's Ras et Tin Citadel, it marked another step in the British Army's trek out of Egypt after a stay of 65 years. Begun last July with the evacuation of the Cairo Citadel, this military migration brings into the news the name of Egypt's greatest seaport and second city (Alexandria), and a small canal-zone village (Fayid) which has been sleeping placidly in the desert sun.

With the departure of British forces, Alexandria—a wartime British naval base—will become headquarters of the new Egyptian Navy. Establishment of its Alexandria base has been started with the arrival of the first of 28 surplus vessels purchased from the United States.

Famous Pharos Beacon Lighted Ancient Alexandria

Alexander the Great founded the city as a Greek port on a narrow strip of land between the sea and Maryut Lake. A canal connected the lake with Egypt's inland water system, the Nile and its canals.

The citadel stands at the west end of what was originally the island of Pharos. At the east end of the island towered the famous lighthouse (illustration, page 6) which was one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. Erected in 280 B.C., it was 100 feet square at the base, and a beacon fire was kept burning at the top.

Almost as remarkable as the lighthouse was the three-quarter-mile causeway built to connect the island with the mainland. This formed two large harbors which still serve ocean liners. The causeway has been expanded, however, into a neck of land six blocks wide, bordered by a broad promenade, piers, and wharves.

Once Cleopatra's capital, Alexandria became the second city of the Roman Empire, and was the Mediterranean outlet for shipments from the fertile fields of Egypt. A ship canal 150 feet wide, between the Nile and the Red Sea, made Alexandria a gateway to the East.

A canal still connects Alexandria with the Nile. A railroad and an automobile highway run from the port to Cairo. Despite these close physical ties with the capital, Alexandria's half-million population is cosmopolitan rather than strictly Egyptian.

Fayid to Be Temporary Headquarters

Modern Alexandria is a popular seaside resort for residents of Cairo. It is a city of gay beaches, broad avenues, and flower-filled parks. Its public buildings, theaters, and business houses are chiefly Italian or Grecian in design, not Egyptian.

British troops will remain in the canal zone until they take up permanent headquarters at a point in the Middle East yet to be decided. Relinquishing their Cairo and Alexandria posts, they will make their temporary headquarters at Fayid on the western shores of Great Bitter Lake.

Through this desert hamlet runs the railway from Port Said at the Mediterranean end of the canal to Suez, at the north end of the Red Sea. To the east, through the pale-blue waters of the lake, runs the channel of the Suez Canal. Westward the Arabian Desert steps up from the flat

lowed up in "Greater Germany," and even its name was changed to Ostmark, or "Eastern Province." Under German control, industrial production was shifted to munitions, armored vehicles, and airplanes.

By May, 1945, all of Austria was occupied by the victorious Allies. Specific zones later were assigned to American, Russian, British, and French troops. The American zone centered at Salzburg and Zell am See (illustration, below), in the scenic mountain-and-lake country near the German border. The re-established Austrian Republic held elections and set up a permanent government in January, 1946.

NOTE: Austria is shown on the National Geographic Society's Map of Germany and Its Approaches. Write the Society's headquarters, Washington 6, D. C., for a price list of maps.

For additional information, see "A Tale of Three Cities," in the *National Geographic Magazine* for December, 1945; "This Was Austria" (18 photographs), July, 1945*; and "Austrian August—and September," April, 1938. (Issues marked by an asterisk are available to teachers in packets of ten for \$1.00.)

See also, in the *GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS*, January 28, 1946, "Austria, First Nazi-Conquered State, Resumes National Role."



IN AUSTRIA, TOO, THE RICH MAN LIVES ON A HILL

PUBLISHERS PHOTO SERVICE

Contrasting homes are seen on this Zell am See hillside. The modest but well-built farmer's cottage has wooden shingles held down by rocks. Hand-carved balustrades decorate the doorway used by the busy family. A fancy weather vane caps the trim lines of the showier home above.

BIBLE LANDS ENLARGED MAPS STILL AVAILABLE

"Equivalent to a volume of history on one sheet of paper"—thus one teacher described the National Geographic Society's map of Bible Lands and the Cradle of Western Civilization. This full-color chart, enlarged to 64½ by 44½ inches for special classroom use, is still available at \$2.00 a copy from the Society's headquarters, Washington 6, D. C.

Rocky Mountain, Sky-High Land of Silence

MOTORISTS driving northwest from Denver, Colorado, on the Trail Ridge Road (illustration, page 2) go through Rocky Mountain National Park on the highest continuous paved highway in the United States. Before it crosses the Continental Divide, this road, following an Indian trail, runs for four miles above 12,000 feet. Above that mark soar 42 peaks.

In this sky-high land, visitors become acquainted with the weird above-timber-line world of crystal silence, year-round snow, glaring summer sun, stunted trees, belief-defying granite cliffs and peaks, sapphire lakes, gusty winds, herds of Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, and secretive alpine flowers. One-third of the park is above timber line.

Longs Peak Is the Park's High Point

The park contains all the diversified scenery that makes the Rockies so interesting. Five and six thousand feet below the highest peaks lie the lush valleys with their beaver colonies, quaking aspen glens, and park-like, flower-filled meadows—the wild gardens of the Rockies. Loch Vale and Wild Basin (illustration, page 8), on either side of Longs Peak, are two of the loveliest and most primitive of the area's valleys.

The Continental Divide, in its easternmost bulge, runs through the park along the crest of Front Range, that massive barrier the Rockies throw up near the edge of the Great Plains. But the highest point in Rocky Mountain National Park is Longs Peak, 14,225 feet, which rises sentinel-like on the plains side of the Front Range.

No road ascends Longs Peak, but as many as 1,400 men, women, and children climb it every summer. They reach the summit by two trails, one 11 and one eight miles long. All but the last two miles may be covered on horseback. There are 200 miles of trails in the park.

Besides Trail Ridge Road, which crosses the park between its two main entrances—Estes Park on the east and Grand Lake on the west—there are other fine highways reaching the most popular objectives. Most of them fan out from Estes Park, a town 70 miles northwest of Denver.

Enos A. Mills, "the Father of Rocky Mountain National Park"

Longs Peak and adjacent mountains were first sighted in 1820 by an army party under Major Stephen H. Long. Trappers, the fabulous "mountain men" who made the day-by-day rounds of their traps in the snowy fastnesses then brought their enormous catches to Taos or St. Louis, knew the region well. Then came the settlers to build cabins in the valleys.

The first tourists soon appeared and, in 1884, Enos A. Mills arrived. This sickly Kansas boy had a burning desire to see, and learn to know, the mountains. At 14 he left home and went to Estes Park. He built a cabin at the base of Longs Peak. For 30 years, his health recovered, he wandered over the West, studying nature, making friends with birds and animals, and writing books and articles about his experiences. In 1909 he started a campaign to make the Longs Peak area a national park. Six years later his efforts were fulfilled.

Rocky Mountain is the nearest of the big Western national parks to

sands along the canal, and to the southwest Gebel Shubrawit rises 740 feet.

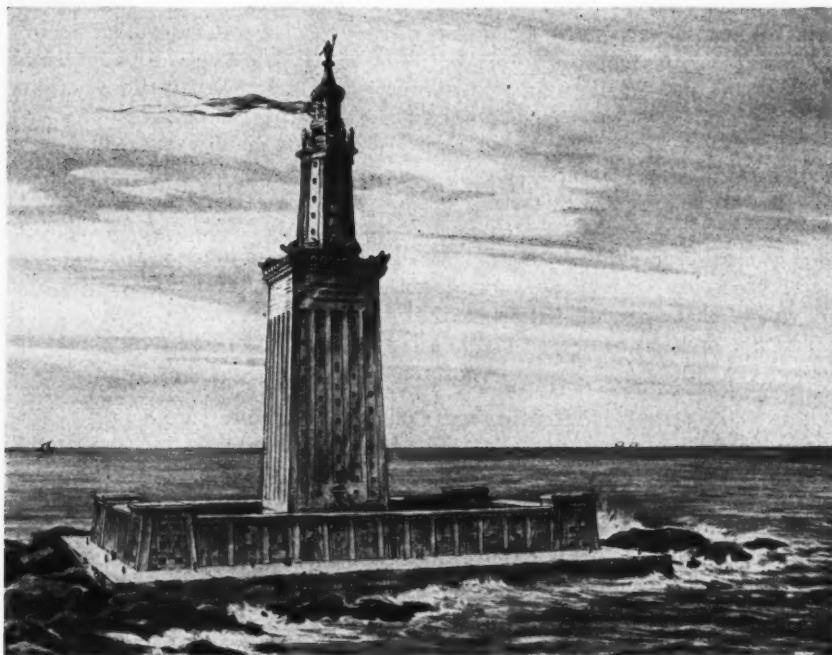
The fresh-water canal built during construction of the Suez Canal to supply water for drinking and irrigation still serves that purpose and makes possible the growing of fruit, vegetables, and flowers in a narrow strip between desert and lake.

The small station on the Port Said-Suez railway has been transformed into a large garrison city. Nissen-type huts will house offices; there are quarters for married men and tents for bachelors. Restaurants, club rooms, a shopping center, and such sports facilities as tennis and squash courts, golf course, football field, and stadium have converted the barren little settlement into a self-sufficient modern army post.

Fayid is 65 miles east of Cairo. The nearest town of any size is Ismailia, 20 miles north on Lake Timsah. This town of about 25,000 people is headquarters for the Suez Canal Company. The barracks of the British canal guard lie to the west. Because of its position midway between the Mediterranean and the Gulf of Suez, Ismailia was an important center during the ten years the canal was being built.

NOTE: The Nile Delta and Suez Canal areas of British occupation may be located on the Society's map of Bible Lands and the Cradle of Western Civilization.

See also, "American Fighters Visit Bible Lands," in the *National Geographic Magazine* for March, 1946; "War Meets Peace in Egypt," April, 1942; and "Old-New Battlegrounds of Egypt and Libya," December, 1940.



HASHIME MURAYAMA, COURTESY ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS

THE PHAROS BEACON FIRE TRAILS LIKE A SCARF IN THE OCEAN BREEZE

The open fire atop the Pharos guided ships to Alexandria's harbor for 16 centuries. The tower survived the earthquake of 1326, but no one knows what finally happened to it. The sketch was based on historical research. In the 15th century Fort Qait Bey was built on the lighthouse site.

Tung Oil Flows from Gulf-State Groves

HOME-GROWN tung oil is posting a new production record in the United States as it flows from pressing mills near tung-tree groves in the Gulf-Coast states. Before the war, this vegetable oil—unsurpassed as a fast-drying and waterproofing ingredient for paints—was imported from China in enormous quantities. Less than five per cent of the tung oil used in the United States was produced domestically in 1940; 50,000 tons were imported from China.

The oil is pressed from the kernels of the tung nut, fruit of a tree which is a native of China's Yangtze River basin. The tung nut shows the fastest current expansion of any one of the 52 principal American crops. The United States harvest of less than one ton in 1924 climbed to 6,200 tons in 1943 and 47,300 tons in 1946.

Yangtze's Wild Trees Supplied Thousands of Tons of Oil

From the 1946 crop of nuts about 7,000 tons of oil could be extracted. That is about one-tenth of the imports from China in some prewar years, and an estimated one-thirtieth of the amount the American paint industry could readily use in 1947.

Before World War II, as many as 150,000 tons of tung oil were produced annually from the wild tung trees growing on the well-drained slopes of the Yangtze basin between Hankow and Ichang. Although half or more of the output was shipped to the United States, the supply was less than the demand.

The war put an end to China's exports of tung oil. During the eight years' Japanese occupation of China's coast, few new tung trees were planted and many old trees were cut down for firewood. Low tung-nut production and China's increased need for the oil is expected to curtail export for many years to come.

Tung-oil culture was started in the United States by Dr. David Fairchild, agricultural explorer for the Department of Agriculture and a trustee of the National Geographic Society. In China, Dr. Fairchild studied the culture of the tung tree and the uses to which the Chinese put the oil pressed from its nuts. He started the tung-oil industry in the United States with a thousand tung-tree seeds sent him by L. S. Wilcox, Consul General at Hankow—another American who early recognized the value of these useful nuts.

Mississippi Is Chief Tung-Producing State

The principal tung-growing area in the United States lies a few miles inland from the Gulf of Mexico. It extends eastward from Baton Rouge, Louisiana, into northwestern Florida. These groves contain 12,000,000 trees and cover 250 square miles of land. There are a few scattered groves in eastern Texas.

Because of the great number of groves in Pearl River County, Mississippi, that state leads the six tung-producing states with 20,000 tons of nuts—nearly half the 1946 crop. Louisiana is second with 14,000 tons. Florida, with 10,500 tons, is third.

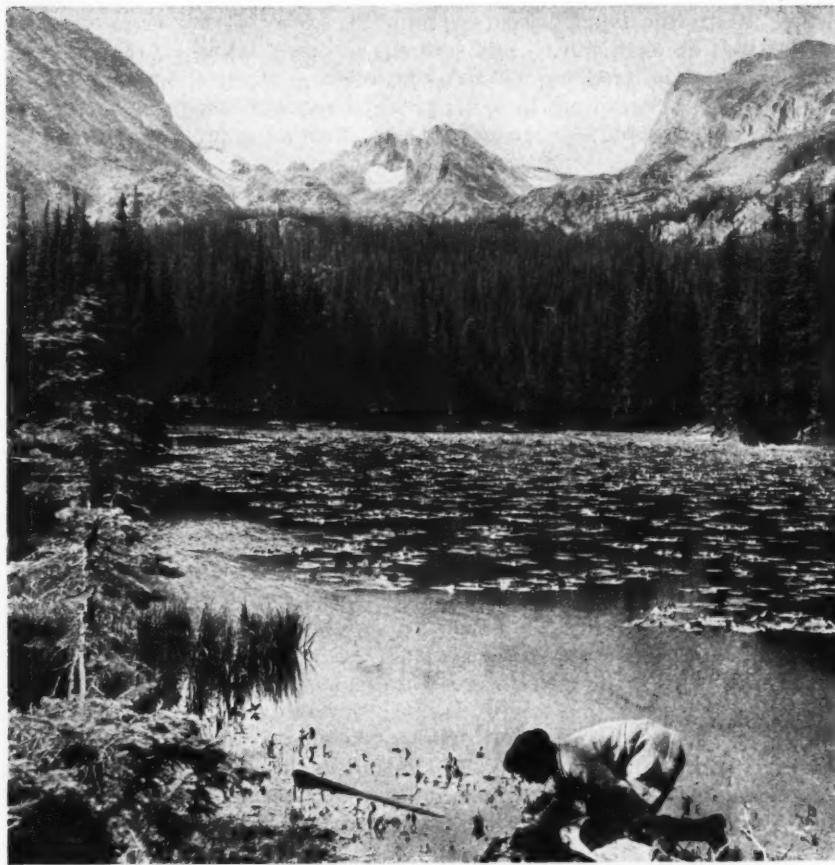
In April, the tung trees are a riot of pale pink and ivory blossoms.

the large proportion of the population in the East and Midwest. Once there, the visitor also can easily reach its individual attractions. Glacier remnants of ancient rivers of ice, jagged peaks seemingly unscalable, icy-stream canyons haunted by the spray-loving water ouzel, lakes still unfurrowed by a boat's keel—all are found at the ends of short hikes or horseback rides from hotels, camps, or roads.

There are seven lodges within the park, and six free automobile camps. Summer and winter accommodations are offered in the towns of Grand Lake and Estes Park. The park is open all year. Grand Lake, on the "western slope," near the source of the Colorado River, is Colorado's largest lake and the West's highest yacht anchorage.

NOTE: Rocky Mountain National Park is shown on the Society's map of the Southwestern United States.

For additional information, see "Colorado, a Barrier That Became a Goal," in the *National Geographic Magazine* for July, 1932; "Nature's Scenic Marvels of the West," July, 1933; and "A Mind's-Eye Map of America," June, 1920.



MILE HIGH PHOTO COMPANY

TOPPED BY ROCK-RIBBED GLACIATED PEAKS, LILY-COVERED OUZEL LAKE BECKONS THE WILD-LIFE LOVER TO WILD BASIN, A WILDERNESS SPOT IN THE COLORADO ROCKIES

Japan's Zaibatsu Firms Face Dissolution

ONE objective of Allied control in Japan is dissolution of the Zaibatsu—about 15 family-dominated financial combines which nearly controlled the economy of the country. The program of dispossessing these giant monopolistic concerns is now so near completion that members of the "royal families of finance" must have Japanese government permission to buy clothes and groceries.

The word Zaibatsu combines *zai*, meaning wealth or finance, and *batsu*, signifying clique or faction. The big four of the group were Mitsui, Mitsubishi (illustration, page 12), Sumitomo, and Yasuda—houses known to bankers, traders, and industrialists around the world. Unlike the others, Mitsubishi is not a family name, but is derived from the three water chestnuts which adorn the crest of the Iwasaki family. Smaller-fry Zaibatsu enterprises included such groups as Okura, Asano, Kuhara, Ogawa-Tanaka, Kawasaki, Shibusawa, Furukawa, and Mori.

Zaibatsu Power Reached out Like an Octopus

Since 1868, the Zaibatsu has grabbed the lion's share of Japan's business. The four largest houses handled about one-third of the foreign trade. The three biggest owned half of the warehouses and half the merchant-ship tonnage, controlled one-half the coal output, and monopolized one-third of the copper production. In normal years about one-tenth of all Japan's trade funneled through Mitsui enterprises.

A Zaibatsu organization reached like an octopus into all economic areas—finance, commerce, and industry. It was not content to become powerful in only one field. Moreover, through its backing of political parties and representation in governmental posts it was able to shape public policy to advantage and to obtain subsidies and contracts.

Zaibatsu companies engaged in engineering projects, shipbuilding, mining, iron- and steelmaking, and production of chemicals and power and light equipment. Arms and munitions were major specialties. Sugar refining, flour milling, and textile production were important.

Development of colonial resources was largely in the hands of Zaibatsu firms, and the operation of shipping services to all parts of the world was an outstanding interest. Through their trading companies the family groups dealt in coal and agricultural commodities. From their banks came the capital to meet the needs of many independent firms as well as their own requirements.

Mitsui Family Backed Emperor Against the Shogunate

So extensive were the operations of these giant combines that a single group within its own establishments could build and outfit a ship on its own ways, fill the tanks or bunkers from its own fuel sources, insure the cargo, store the freight in its own warehouses, and take care of all the commercial charges through its own banks.

Royal favor helped the Zaibatsu to power. The Mitsui family backed the emperor's party against the shogunate (the military clique which had usurped power) in 1867. Victory for the emperor brought valuable franchises and subsidies. With these rich rewards the house was quickly able

Late in the fall, the ripe nuts drop to the ground (illustration, below), where they are left to dry for five or six weeks. In the winter, they are taken to the crushing mill where their seeds—five to a nut, and the size of a robin's egg—are pressed to yield oil for many uses and cakes for fertilizer. As methods are improved for extracting all the oil from the kernels, the cake will become more suitable as meal for livestock.

Four-fifths of the tung oil is used in top-grade paints and varnishes. Large amounts are used in the manufacture of linoleum and oilcloth. The oil goes into printer's inks, electric insulating compounds, automobile brake linings, and lacquer linings for tin cans. Its wartime uses included weatherproofing cannon shells, rifle cartridges, tank guns, tents, vehicle covers, and a wide variety of military fabrics.

NOTE: States where tung trees are grown may be located on the Society's map of the Southeastern United States, which was a supplement to the February, 1947, issue of the *National Geographic Magazine*.



ILLINOIS CENTRAL SYSTEM

CHINA'S NATIVE TUNG TREE MAKES ITSELF AT HOME ALONG THE GULF COAST

Round tung nuts, like brunette billiard balls, are left under the tree to dry before being sent to the mill to be crushed into oil. This naturalized Chinese tree, which now flourishes in the United States Gulf-Coast area, thousands of miles from its native heath along the Yangtze River, sometimes attains a height of 25 feet. In shape it somewhat resembles the peach tree, and continues the likeness in its pink and white blossoms and the orchard pattern in which it is planted.

to establish a position almost immune to competition.

When the government needed money it turned to one of the wealthy families. The family groups thus became increasingly powerful in the conduct of Japan's fiscal affairs and the management of its economic life. They held large blocks of stock in the South Manchurian Railway, and were heavily involved in industrial concerns in Korea, Formosa, and Manchuria.

In the years preceding the war the ambitions of the militarists to direct Japan's destiny came into sharp conflict with Zaibatsu interests. The Army put itself in position to take over the nation's economic leadership in wartime. Faced with the aggressive rivalry of the military, the Zaibatsu tried to win popular support for their policies.

They made a show of breaking up their holdings by offering stock to the public, and by withdrawing their names from some enterprises. But as long as Japan was concerned with armaments and colonial exploitation, the Zaibatsu firms could count on profitable opportunities for their highly developed services. They had prospered in all Japan's wars, and they came out of the depression of the 1930's in strong financial position. World War II and the peace that followed, however, apparently have broken up the clique forever.

NOTE: See also "Sunset in the East," in the *National Geographic Magazine* for June, 1946; "Face of Japan," December, 1945; "Behind the Mask of Modern Japan," November, 1945*; and "Japan and the Pacific," April, 1944.



EWING GALLOWAY

THE MITSUBISHI BANK, ONE ARM OF AN OCTOPUSLIKE ZAIBATSU FIRM, IS WESTERN IN STYLE

The Zaibatsu was composed of Japan's "royal families of finance." Its giant combines dominated Nippon's economy and helped make the country strong enough to challenge the United States in war. The present Japanese government, under direction of the Allied high command, is dissolving the "wealth clique" which has occupied so powerful a position in Japan since 1868.

